Appendix table 7-34

Public assessment of benefits and harms of nanotechnology, by respondent characteristic: 2010

(Percent)

Characteristic	Benefits will outweigh harmful results	Benefits will be about equal to harmful results	Harmful results will outweigh benefits	Don't know
All adults (*n* = 963)	37	9	11	43
Sex				
Male (*n* = 397)	45	10	9	36
Female (*n* = 566)	30	9	11	50
Formal education				
<High school (*n* = 119)	22	13	9	56
High school graduate (*n* = 296)	26	14	19	41
Some college (*n* = 243)	41	8	7	44
Baccalaureate (*n* = 205)	49	4	4	43
Graduate/professional degree (*n* = 100)	53	6	7	34
Science/mathematics education[a]				
Low (*n* = 236)	30	14	11	46
Middle (*n* = 103)	43	8	7	42
High (*n* = 103)	55	5	2	38
Family income (quartile)[b]				
Top (*n* = 185)	51	5	6	39
Second (*n* = 230)	38	11	9	43
Third (*n* = 191)	39	9	11	42
Bottom (*n* = 250)	33	9	17	41
Age (years)[b]				
18–24 (*n* = 53)	32	18	18	32
25–34 (*n* = 179)	41	14	7	38
35–44 (*n* = 165)	40	7	15	38
45–54 (*n* = 183)	43	8	6	43
55–64 (*n* = 173)	35	6	13	46
≥65 (*n* = 204)	28	7	7	58
Trend factual knowledge of science scale (quartile)[c]				
Top (*n* = 248)	54	9	5	31
Second (*n* = 290)	42	10	10	38
Third (*n* = 223)	30	11	8	51
Bottom (*n* = 202)	14	8	20	58
How much have you heard about nanotechnology?				
A lot (*n* = 47)	82	6	7	5
Some (*n* = 197)	60	7	6	27
Just a little (*n* = 284)	38	8	8	46
Nothing at all (*n* = 412)	22	12	15	50
Don't know (*n* = 23)	0	4	0	96

[a]Low = ≤5 high school and college science/math courses; middle = 6–8 courses; high = ≥9 courses. Questions asked of 485 survey respondents; categories do not add to total because "don't know" and "refused" responses not shown.

[b]Categories do not add to total *n* because "don't know" and "refused" responses not shown.

[c]Quartiles based on percentage of nine questions in trend factual knowledge of science scale answered correctly. See notes to appendix table 7-8 for questions.

NOTES: Responses to *Nanotechnology works at the molecular level atom by atom to build new structures, materials, and machines. People have frequently noted that new technologies have produced both benefits and harmful results. Do you think the benefits of nanotechnology will outweigh the harmful results or the harmful results will outweigh the benefits?* Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2010).

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